

## **Renton's Comprehensive Plan**

### **King Parker, Renton City Council**

Successful long-range planning can occur only if a community has a vision of what it aspires to be. Renton's vision statement—"the center of opportunity where families and businesses thrive" summarizes the city's ideal future—a future that focuses on supporting the vitality of our neighborhoods, emphasizing sound urban planning and enhancing quality of life. Renton's Comprehensive Plan translates this vision into specific objectives and policies that set the context for future growth and development in our city.

The Washington State Growth Management Act requires cities to create and periodically review comprehensive plans to ensure that policies are in place to assume a fair share of anticipated growth, determine the provision of adequate infrastructure, and to protect the environment. All private development and all public infrastructure (roads, utilities, etc.) in the city must be consistent with the adopted plan. The Comprehensive Plan provides direction for our development regulations, capital improvement plans, and the services the city delivers.

Through a significant public involvement process, Renton adopted its first Comprehensive Plan in 1993 as a 20-year plan and, while we conducted a thorough review in 2004, we are approaching the original Plan's horizon. The Comprehensive Plan today includes ten elements, focusing on the community's future land use, transportation, parks and recreation, and other infrastructure and environmental issues, needs, challenges, and opportunities.

Many of the Comprehensive Plan's original goals and policies have been achieved. The seeds of our downtown revitalization, for instance, were first sown in this document. The Piazza Park, transit center, and City Center Parking Garage have all been constructed. Now, hundreds of new condominiums and apartments, new shops and restaurants have been built, and downtown Renton is well on its way to being the lively mixed-use district that we could only dream about when our planning effort first began.

Others aspects of the Plan need to be updated to reflect the changing face of the community. In 1993, no one envisioned the development of The Landing. While the Plan was amended in 2003 to allow the former Boeing property to redevelop, we need to ensure that this transformational development has positive impacts on the surrounding neighborhoods.

In the future, as the city reviews and considers revising its Comprehensive Plan, it will be important that we do so with significant involvement from all the stakeholders of our community—residents, neighborhood associations, business owners, schools, service providers, and others. We want the Comprehensive Plan to be a reflection of your hopes and dreams for Renton. After all, you are the families and businesses that we want to be thriving in "the Center of Opportunity."